3t Mukherjea O. Y-4,5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
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what Hunter calls, "the advance guard of the hill system of the central India Plateau." Midnapur resembles Bankura more or less in topography; but it is not so hilly. It has its laterite soil, mohua and sal trees,—a characteristic back-ground inseparable from the Santals.

Distributed throughout this wide area live the Santal, a man of medium size but muscular and strong, with a complexion varying from light-brown to an ebony colour, almost beardless and his ox-eyed, merry women-folk. The physical feacures that distinguish them from the rest of the population are that they have a round outline and look rather stout. They have, what is called by Col. Dalton, "a blubbery style of face," noses broad with a depressed bridge, and hair black, straight, coarse and curly. The mouth is a large one and the lips thick and projecting; "the zygomatic arches prominent, while the proportions of the skull, approaching the dolichocephalic type, conclusively refute the hypothesis of their Mongolian descent."[1]

Although the theory of Mongolian descent of the Santal is no longer tenable, it is worth noting that faces of a Mongoloid type are sometimes seen amongst them. Rev. Bodding has seen "spots in the pigment of the skin of Santal children, which,

1 Ref. Risley, *People of India*, App. VIII, p. clvii.

3i Mukherjea O. Y-4, 5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
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144 in size, position and colour, resemble certain peculiar
143 blue spots found on Mongol children, which are said to be a distinct race-mark not found outside the Mongol people."[1]

Their Language

197 The Santals speak a language of their own. Linguists say that Santali belongs to the Mundà family of languages, which in its turn belongs to the Austro-Asiatic sub-family, termed so by Peter Schmidt. According to Dr. Campbell, this language has reached a much higher stage of development than any other dialect of the linguistic stock to which it belongs and is spoken with little variation in idiom or pronunciation over the greater part of the Santali-speaking areas. Northern Santali or that spoken in Bhagalpur, Monghyr, the Santal Parganas, Birbhum, Bankura, Hazaribagh and Manbhum, is the language of an overwhelming majority of the tribe, and is more polished than Southern Santali, or that spoken in the remaining districts, as a dialect, or a group of dialects of it.[2]

[192] Like all other languages, Santali has drawn upon other languages, but the influence of Bengali seems

[113] 1 *Mongolian race-marks among Santals.* J.A.S.B., 1904, Part II, p. 26.

[113] 2 Ref. Introduction to Dr. Campbell's Santali Dictionary (Edn. 1933).

4: Biswas D, E-3, 4 (1931-1945) 1956
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143 From the above table it appears that in the distribution of genes p, q and r the Santals fall closest to the proto-Australoids of India like the Hill Maler, Maria Gond, Malpaharia, Munda, on the one hand, to the southern Mongoloids like the Bhotia, Tibetan and Lepcha, and to the "partial" or mixed Mongoloids like the Tharus Rajis, Kumaoni Rajput etc. on the other. Because of the paucity of the data in most of the series represented in the table, it will be appropriate to say that the gene frequencies should be used cautiously. A very striking fact is the high incidence of group B among the castes of Northern India (particularly the 'exterior castes') which in combination with the strong doses of both the two agglutinogens is a characteristic feature of the Mundari and Monkhmer people[1].

143 The foregoing account is also suported[A] by the
• 144 dermatoglyphic and somatometric analysis and as such it is highly appropriate to suggest that the Santals who are mainly proto-Australoids also show certain Mongoloid affinities on ethnic scales which in my opinion should be thoroughly investigated in Central India.

143 It is interesting in this connection to note Bodding's
144 remarks regarding the Mongoloid affinity of the Santals.
114 He states, 'The theory of Mongolian descent is not tenable, but there cannot be any doubt that Mongoloid blood has been introduced, either by the Santals taking Mongolian wives, or the Santal women having illegitimate children by Mongolian men". He further remarks,

[113] [1]Sarkar S.S. Macfarlane (E.W.E.), Blood Groups in India, American Journal of Physical Anthropology Vol. 29, (1941).

[A] [Erratum: this should read "supported." Cf. errata sheet, category 116, p. ix -- Analyst]

4: Biswas D, E-3, 4 (1931-1945) 1956
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"other types may be found, but too few to be taken into account. All this proves mixture of blood at some time or other. What I would specially draw attention to in this connection, is the Mongoloid type, and types resembling what is found in Assam, Burma and further on"[1].

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[1]Bengal District Gazetteers—Santal Parganas—by L.S.S.O'Malley (1910), pp. 94 and 101.

[113]

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CHAPTER I

THE MAKING OF A PEOPLE

The Santals are one of the largest of the tribal peoples of India; at the census of 1931 they numbered over two and a half million. Their villages are widely distributed over the area which lies between eighty-six and eighty-eight meridians east longitude and between twenty-two and twenty-six degrees north latitude. They are also found farther to the north-east, where some have settled in North Bengal and Western Assam. They are the most easterly of the great belt of primitive folk which stretches across Central India.

Where the Chota Nagpur plateau begins to give way to the Ganges plain the country is broken up into a series of ridges. Through the narrow valleys thus formed flow many streams which maintain a brief and furious life during the rains. There are few big rivers, and even these dry to nothingness in the hot season. In some parts there are ranges of low hills; in others conical-shaped hills rise abruptly from the undulating plain. The countryside is still for the most part well wooded, and the *sal* forests (*Shorea robusta*, Gartn.) contribute to the wellbeing of those who dwell in them. It is, however, a hard country in which to live, where the soil is rocky and the water supplies are scant.

Dr. B. S. Guha[1] has distinguished six main types among the races who inhabit India. The Santals belong to his second "main race", the Proto-Australoid, which he considers arrived in India soon after the Negritos. The name is given because of the similarity of racial type with Australian tribes. "We have no precise information as to when this race first came into India. It is found among the prehistoric skulls in the Tinnevelly district, and from references in early Sanskrit literature to 'Nishads', where they are described as noseless (*anash*) with dark skin colour and peculiar speech and habits, there can be no doubt that the Proto-Australoid tribes were meant."[2] The Santals are short in stature, and among them the broad flat nose with a sunken nose ridge is fairly common. They frequently have wavy hair; sometimes it is curly, though it is never frizzy. They share all these characteristics with other primitive tribes in the same group. Dr. Guha has cautiously attempted to state

[1] B. S. Guha, *Oxford Pamphlets on Indian Affairs*, "Racial Elements in the Population", 1944.
[2] B. S. Guha, *op. cit.*, p. 11.